

introduction a jacques ellul Study Guide

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Jacques Ellul was a prominent French philosopher, sociologist, theologian, and cultural critic whose work has left an indelible mark on modern thought. His insights into technology, society, and the nature of human freedom continue to resonate today, making him a vital figure for anyone interested in understanding the complex relationship between technological advancement and social change. This article provides a comprehensive introduction to Jacques Ellul's life, major ideas, and enduring influence, offering readers a detailed overview of one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century.

Who Was Jacques Ellul?

Early Life and Background

Jacques Ellul was born on August 6, 1912, in Bordeaux, France. Growing up in a period marked by rapid technological and social transformations, Ellul's early experiences shaped his later critical approach to modern society. He studied law, philosophy, and theology, which provided a multidisciplinary foundation for his later work. His background as a Christian theologian deeply influenced his perspectives on ethics, human freedom, and societal development.

Academic and Professional Career

Throughout his life, Ellul held various academic positions, including teaching at the University of Bordeaux. His scholarly pursuits spanned multiple disciplines, including sociology, philosophy, and theology. He was also deeply involved in Christian circles and sought to reconcile his faith with his critical analysis of modern technological society.

Major Works and Publications

Ellul authored numerous influential books and essays. Some of his most famous works include:

- The Technological Society (1964): Analyzes the pervasive influence of technology on human life.
- Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes (1965): Examines the role of propaganda in shaping public opinion.
- The Political Illusion (1965): Critiques the illusions of democratic politics.

- The Meaning of the City (1967): Looks at urbanization and its societal implications.

Core Ideas and Philosophical Contributions

The Technological Society

One of Ellul's most influential concepts is his analysis of technology's role in modern society. He argued that:

- Technology is not merely a tool but an autonomous force that shapes societal structures.
- The development of technology follows its own logic, often independent of human values.
- Society becomes increasingly dependent on technological systems, leading to a phenomenon Ellul termed "technological determinism."

Key points about the technological society:

- **Autonomy of Technology:** Technology evolves according to its internal dynamics, often beyond human control.
- **Automation of Life:** Daily life is structured around technological processes, from communication to transportation.
- **Loss of Human Autonomy:** Humans increasingly surrender decision-making to technological systems.

Ellul was critical of this trend, warning that unchecked technological growth could undermine human freedom and ethical considerations.

Propaganda and Mass Communication

Ellul's work on propaganda explores how mass media and advertising influence public opinion and social behavior. He emphasized:

- The pervasive power of propaganda in democratic societies.
- How technological advances in communication amplify propaganda's reach.
- The importance of critical awareness to resist manipulation.

Main points of his analysis:

- Propaganda is not limited to totalitarian regimes but is inherent in democratic societies.
- It shapes perceptions and attitudes subtly but powerfully.
- Education and awareness are crucial tools to foster critical thinking.

Ethics, Freedom, and Human Responsibility

Despite his concern over technological domination, Ellul believed in the importance of human responsibility and ethics. His key ideas include:

- The necessity of ethical reflection in technological development.
- The importance of maintaining human freedom in the face of inevitable technological progress.
- The role of faith and moral values in guiding societal choices.

Ellul's Views on Modern Society

Critique of Modern Technology

Ellul's critique of modern technology is both philosophical and ethical. He argued that:

- Society tends to prioritize technological efficiency over human values.
- The pursuit of progress often leads to dehumanization.
- Technological systems tend to expand uncontrollably, creating a "technological imperative" that compels society to adopt new innovations.

Urbanization and Society

In *The Meaning of the City*, Ellul explores urbanization's impact on social relationships and individual identity. He notes that:

- Cities are centers of technological and social change.
- Urban life can lead to alienation and loss of community.
- The city acts as a reflection of technological and societal evolution.

Religion and Society

Ellul's theological background informs his analysis of societal change. He believed that:

- Faith provides a moral anchor amid rapid technological change.
- The Christian ethic emphasizes human dignity and freedom.
- Society must balance technological progress with spiritual and ethical considerations.

The Legacy and Relevance of Jacques Ellul

Influence on Contemporary Thought

Ellul's ideas have influenced a broad range of disciplines, including:

- Technology studies
- Media theory
- Sociology and political science
- Environmental ethics

His insights have inspired scholars and activists concerned with issues like digital surveillance, artificial intelligence, and environmental sustainability.

Applications in Modern Context

Today, Ellul's work is particularly relevant in discussions about:

- The impact of social media and digital propaganda.
- Ethical challenges posed by AI and automation.
- The balance between technological innovation and human rights.
- Urban planning and sustainable development.

Criticisms and Debates

While highly influential, Ellul's work has also faced criticism. Some argue that:

- His view of technology as an autonomous force may underestimate human agency.
- His emphasis on technology's dangers might overlook its potential for positive social change.
- His philosophical approach can seem pessimistic about humanity's capacity to control technological development.

Conclusion: Why Study Jacques Ellul Today?

Understanding Jacques Ellul is essential for anyone interested in the ethical, social, and political implications of modern technology. His critical perspective encourages us to reflect on how technological progress shapes our lives and to consider the importance of maintaining human values amid rapid change. As technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, Ellul's insights provide a valuable framework for analyzing and navigating the complexities of contemporary society.

Key Takeaways:

- Jacques Ellul was a pioneering thinker in the study of technology's societal impact.
- His concept of technological determinism warns of technology's autonomous growth.
- Ellul emphasized the importance of ethics, human responsibility, and critical awareness.
- His work remains relevant in contemporary debates on digital media, AI, urbanization, and environmental sustainability.

Whether you are a student, scholar, or curious reader, exploring Jacques Ellul's ideas offers vital insights into the challenges and opportunities of our technological age. His work continues to inspire critical thinking about how society can develop responsibly and ethically in an increasingly complex world.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

Jacques Ellul, introduction a Jacques Ellul, technological society, sociology of technology, propaganda theory, ethical technology, urbanization, modern society, technology and society, Ellul's philosophy, influence of Jacques Ellul

Introduction a Jacques Ellul: Exploring the Thinker Who Merged Technology, Society, and Theology

Jacques Ellul remains one of the most influential and provocative thinkers of the 20th century, renowned for his incisive analysis of modern society, technology, and their profound implications for human life. When examining the landscape of philosophical and sociological thought, the phrase "introduction a Jacques Ellul" often signals a journey into a complex, multi-dimensional perspective that challenges conventional narratives about progress, autonomy, and morality. To truly appreciate Ellul's contributions, it is essential to understand his core ideas, intellectual background, and the ways his work continues to resonate today.

Who Was Jacques Ellul?

Born in 1912 in Bordeaux, France, Jacques Ellul was a French philosopher, sociologist, theologian, and historian. His extensive body of work spans numerous fields but is most notably characterized

by his critique of technological society and his exploration of how technological advancements influence social structures, political power, and individual freedom.

Ellul's early academic pursuits focused on law and law enforcement, eventually leading him to become deeply immersed in the study of societal organization. His background in theology also played a pivotal role in shaping his ethical and philosophical outlook, especially his concern with the moral implications of technological development.

The Central Themes of Ellul's Thought

Understanding "introduction a Jacques Ellul" requires familiarity with his primary themes:

- Technological Determinism: Ellul argued that technology is not merely a collection of tools but a powerful autonomous force that shapes society. His concept of "technique" refers to the methods and processes that define modern life, often surpassing human control.
- The Autonomy of Technique: Unlike traditional views that see technology as neutral or subordinate to human will, Ellul emphasized that technique develops according to its own logic, often independent of ethical considerations.
- Propaganda and Mass Communication: Ellul examined how technological advances in communication have transformed political and social influence, making propaganda an inevitable feature of modern society.
- The Crisis of Freedom: For Ellul, technological society risks undermining individual autonomy, leading to a form of societal and personal conformity driven by technological imperatives.
- Christian Hope and Ethics: Despite his critical stance on technology, Ellul's theological insights underpin his belief in moral responsibility and the possibility of ethical resistance.

Why Is an "Introduction a Jacques Ellul" Important?

A comprehensive introduction to Ellul's thought is vital because his ideas challenge us to reconsider assumptions about progress and control in the modern era. His work prompts critical reflection on how technological development, while offering undeniable benefits, also poses ethical dilemmas and societal risks.

For scholars, students, and anyone interested in the intersection of technology and society, understanding Ellul provides valuable tools to analyze contemporary issues such as digital surveillance, artificial intelligence, and environmental crises.

Key Aspects of an Introduction to Jacques Ellul

- Historical and Intellectual Context

Ellul's work must be understood against the backdrop of post-World War II France, a period marked by rapid technological change, political upheaval, and philosophical questioning. His experiences during wartime, especially his role in the French Resistance, deeply influenced his skepticism of technological progress without moral oversight.

- Major Works and Their Significance

Some of Ellul's most influential books include:

- *The Technological Society* (1964): A pioneering analysis of how technique has become autonomous and influential in shaping modern civilization.
- *Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes* (1965): An exploration of how propaganda operates within technological societies.
- *The Ethics of Freedom* (1972): A reflection on human freedom and moral responsibility in a world dominated by technological forces.
- *Jacques Ellul: A Christian Critique of Technology* (various essays): Examining the relationship between faith, ethics, and technological development.

- Core Concepts Explained

- **Technique as Autonomy:** Ellul argues that once a technological innovation is developed, it tends to evolve and proliferate regardless of societal or ethical considerations. This creates a situation where society must adapt to technique rather than control it.

- **The Technological Effect on Society:** He describes how technological systems influence social structures, economies, and even individual psychology, often leading to homogenization and loss of traditional values.

- The Role of Propaganda: Ellul posited that propaganda is an inevitable tool of modern societies, amplified by mass media and technological advances, thus influencing public opinion and political outcomes.

- Freedom and Resistance: Despite the pervasive influence of technique, Ellul believed that moral and spiritual resistance remains possible. Ethical choices and faith can serve as counterforces.

How to Approach an Introduction a Jacques Ellul

When engaging with Ellul's thought, consider the following steps:

- Start with his definition of technique: Understand how Ellul sees technique as an autonomous and expanding force.
- Examine his critique of technological determinism: Recognize his argument that society often succumbs to the logic of technique.
- Reflect on his views about propaganda and mass communication: Analyze how technological media shape attitudes and behaviors.
- Contemplate his ethical and theological reflections: See how his Christian faith informs his hope and moral stance amidst societal changes.
- Connect his ideas to contemporary issues: Think about how Ellul's analysis applies to digital technology, AI, environmental crises, and social control.

The Relevance of Jacques Ellul Today

In an era where technology dominates nearly every facet of life, Ellul's insights are more relevant than ever. His warnings about the loss of human autonomy and the pervasive influence of technique serve as cautionary notes in debates over data privacy, social media manipulation, and artificial intelligence.

Moreover, his emphasis on ethical responsibility reminds us that technological progress must be accompanied by moral reflection and societal debate. His work encourages us to question whether innovation leads to genuine human flourishing or merely perpetuates systems of control.

Final Thoughts

An introduction a Jacques Ellul invites us into a world where technology is not simply a tool but a shaping force of society—one that requires careful scrutiny and ethical vigilance. Ellul's writings challenge us to see beyond the surface of technological advancement and to consider its deeper implications for freedom, morality, and human dignity.

By engaging with his thought, we are better equipped to navigate the complexities of modern life, recognizing both the promise and perils of the technological age. Whether one approaches Ellul from a philosophical, theological, or sociological perspective, his work remains a vital resource for understanding the dynamics of our rapidly evolving world.

Question Answer Who was Jacques Ellul and why is he significant in modern philosophy?

Jacques Ellul was a French philosopher, sociologist, and theologian known for his critical analysis of technology, society, and culture. His work is significant for exploring how technological advancements influence human values and social structures. What are the main themes in Jacques Ellul's introduction to his ideas? Ellul's introduction often focuses on the impact of technology on society, the concept of technological autonomy, the decline of traditional values, and the importance of ethical reflection in an increasingly technological world. How did Jacques Ellul view technology in his works? Ellul viewed technology as an autonomous force that shapes society beyond human control, emphasizing that technological development follows its own logic and profoundly influences cultural and social institutions. What is the significance of Jacques Ellul's book 'The Technological Society'? In 'The Technological Society,' Ellul analyzes how technological advancements have become the dominant force in shaping modern life, leading to a society increasingly driven by efficiency, automation, and technological progress. How does Jacques Ellul's introduction relate to contemporary debates on technology? Ellul's insights remain highly relevant today, as they provide a critical perspective on issues like digitalization, artificial intelligence, and the ethical challenges of technological innovation, emphasizing the need for human oversight and moral responsibility. In what ways did Jacques Ellul influence fields like sociology and theology? Ellul's interdisciplinary approach bridged sociology and theology, offering a critique of technological society from a moral and spiritual perspective, and influencing discussions on ethics, technology, and societal change. What should readers expect from an introduction to Jacques Ellul's ideas? Readers can expect an overview of Ellul's critique of technological society, his analysis of the autonomous nature of technology, and insights into his call for ethical and spiritual reflection in the face of rapid societal changes.

Related keywords: Jacques Ellul, technological society, philosophy of technology, social critique, modernity, societal impact, technological determinism, cultural critique, Ellul's theories, societal change

Introduction To A Career Essay

Introduction to a Career Essay

When embarking on the journey of academic or professional writing, one of the most significant and

foundational essays students and professionals often encounter is the career essay. An introduction to a career essay serves as the gateway to presenting your aspirations, motivations, and understanding of a specific profession. It sets the tone for the entire essay and provides readers with a clear idea of what to expect. Crafting a compelling introduction is crucial because it captures the reader's interest and establishes the purpose and scope of your writing.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the essential components of an effective introduction to a career essay, including its purpose, structure, and tips for writing an engaging opening. Whether you are a student preparing for a school assignment or a professional crafting a career statement, understanding how to write a strong introduction can significantly enhance your overall essay.

Understanding the Purpose of an Introduction in a Career Essay

The introduction of a career essay is more than just an opening paragraph; it is a strategic tool to engage the reader and lay the foundation for your narrative. Its core purposes include:

- **Capturing Attention:** Drawing the reader into your story or argument.
- **Providing Context:** Offering background information about your chosen career or field.
- **Stating Your Purpose:** Clarifying why you are interested in this career and what you hope to communicate.
- **Setting the Tone:** Establishing whether the essay is formal, personal, or analytical.

By effectively fulfilling these purposes, your introduction will motivate the reader to continue exploring your insights and experiences.

Key Elements of an Effective Introduction to a Career Essay

An impactful introduction should encompass several critical elements that collectively provide clarity and engagement. These include:

1. Hook or Attention-Grabber

Begin with an interesting fact, question, quote, or anecdote related to your chosen career. This element draws the reader's attention immediately and encourages them to read further.

Examples of hooks:

- A compelling statistic about the profession.
- A personal story or moment that sparked your interest.

- A thought-provoking question about the field.

2. Background and Context

Briefly introduce the profession or field you are discussing. This might include:

- The nature of the work involved.
- Its importance in society.
- Current trends or challenges in the industry.

3. Statement of Purpose

Clearly articulate your reasons for choosing this career. This helps to personalize your essay and provide insight into your motivations.

4. Thesis Statement or Main Idea

Present the central idea or argument of your essay. For example, if your essay is about how you plan to pursue your career, state your goals or the key points you will discuss.

Structure of an Introduction to a Career Essay

A well-structured introduction typically follows a logical flow, guiding the reader smoothly into the main body of the essay. Here is a suggested structure:

- Hook/Attention-Grabber
- Brief Background on the Profession
- Personal Motivation and Reasons for Choosing the Career
- Outline of Main Points or Objectives
- Thesis Statement or Central Focus

This structure ensures that your introduction is comprehensive yet concise, setting a clear direction for your essay.

Tips for Writing an Engaging and Effective Introduction

Crafting an introduction that captivates and informs requires attention to detail and thoughtful planning. Here are some practical tips:

- **Start with a compelling hook:** Engage your reader from the first sentence.
- **Be concise:** Avoid lengthy or overly detailed background information in the introduction.
- **Personalize your writing:** Share your unique perspective or experiences related to the career.
- **Use clear and precise language:** Make your purpose and thesis easy to understand.
- **Align with the overall tone of the essay:** Whether formal, personal, or analytical, ensure consistency.
- **Revise and edit:** Refine your introduction to eliminate errors and improve clarity.

Examples of Introductions to a Career Essay

To better understand how to craft your introduction, here are sample openings for different careers:

Example 1: Aspiring Teacher

"Since childhood, I have been enchanted by the transformative power of education. Watching my teachers inspire confidence and curiosity in their students sparked my desire to pursue a career in teaching. I believe that education has the ability to shape lives, and I am committed to becoming a dedicated educator who fosters growth and learning in every student."

Example 2: Future Engineer

"The thrill of solving complex problems and creating innovative solutions has always fascinated me, leading me to pursue a career in engineering. With advancements in technology shaping our world, I am eager to contribute to sustainable development and technological progress as a future engineer dedicated to making a difference."

Conclusion: The Importance of a Strong Introduction

An introduction to a career essay is more than just an opening paragraph; it is the first impression you make on your reader. A well-crafted introduction not only captures attention but also establishes the context and purpose of your essay, guiding the reader through your personal journey or professional insights. By including engaging hooks, clear background information, and a strong thesis statement, you set the stage for a compelling and cohesive essay.

Remember, investing time and effort into writing an effective introduction can significantly enhance the overall quality of your career essay. It serves as a vital tool to communicate your passion, goals, and understanding of your chosen profession. Whether you are exploring future aspirations or reflecting on your current path, a thoughtful introduction paves the way for a meaningful and impactful narrative.

Meta description: Discover how to write an effective introduction to a career essay. Learn key

elements, structure, tips, and examples to craft an engaging opening that sets the tone for your career writing.

Introduction to a Career Essay: A Critical Gateway to Personal and Professional Development

In the realm of personal growth and professional aspiration, the introduction to a career essay serves as the foundational stepping stone that sets the tone, context, and direction of the entire narrative. It is more than a mere opening paragraph; it is an essential component that captures the reader's attention, provides clarity about the essay's purpose, and offers insight into the writer's motivations and aspirations. A well-crafted introduction not only engages but also establishes credibility, paving the way for a compelling exploration of career paths, experiences, and future goals. In this article, we delve into the nuances of crafting an effective career essay introduction, examining its purpose, structure, and key elements through a detailed, analytical lens.

Understanding the Purpose of the Introduction in a Career Essay

Establishing Context and Setting the Tone

The introduction functions as the gateway to the essay, providing readers with essential background information and framing the narrative. It helps set the tone—whether formal, reflective, aspirational, or analytical—and prepares the reader for the content that follows. For example, an introduction that begins with a personal anecdote can evoke emotional engagement, while a factual statement can establish authority and credibility.

Capturing the Reader's Attention

In a competitive landscape of academic and professional writing, capturing the reader's interest is crucial. An engaging introduction can pique curiosity, pose intriguing questions, or offer compelling insights that motivate the reader to continue. Effective techniques include posing a thought-provoking question, citing a surprising statistic, or sharing an impactful personal story related to career development.

Stating the Purpose and Thesis

Central to any introduction is the clear articulation of the essay's purpose. This typically involves presenting a thesis statement—a concise summary of the main argument or focus of the essay. In a career essay, this could encompass the writer's chosen field, motivations, career goals, or the significance of their journey. The thesis serves as a roadmap, guiding both the writer and the reader through the subsequent discussion.

Structuring the Introduction of a Career Essay

Opening with a Hook

A compelling opening is vital for drawing readers in. Common strategies include:

- Personal Anecdotes: Sharing a brief story that highlights an initial interest or pivotal moment.
- Interesting Facts or Statistics: Presenting data that underscores the importance or relevance of the chosen career.
- Provocative Questions: Posing a question that stimulates curiosity about the career path.

Providing Background and Context

Once the hook captures attention, the introduction should offer background information. This might involve:

- Briefly describing the field or industry.
- Explaining the writer's initial exposure or experiences.
- Highlighting relevant influences or inspirations.

Presenting the Thesis Statement

The final part of the introduction should clearly state the main focus of the essay. For example:

- "This essay explores my journey toward a career in environmental engineering, driven by a passion for sustainable development and a desire to combat climate change."
- "Through reflecting on my academic pursuits and internships, I aim to demonstrate my commitment to pursuing a career in digital marketing."

A strong thesis provides clarity and sets expectations for the reader.

Key Elements of an Effective Career Essay Introduction

Clarity and Precision

The language used should be clear, concise, and focused. Avoid vague statements and ensure that the purpose of the essay is explicitly stated. Precision helps the reader understand exactly what to expect.

Personalization and Authenticity

Authenticity resonates with readers. Sharing genuine motivations, experiences, or challenges creates a compelling narrative. Personalization makes the essay unique and memorable.

Relevance and Focus

Every sentence in the introduction should contribute to establishing the context and purpose. Avoid unnecessary details or tangential information that might dilute the focus.

Engagement and Interest

Use engaging language and storytelling techniques to captivate the reader. An evocative opening can make the difference between a forgettable essay and one that leaves a lasting impression.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid in the Introduction

- Vagueness: Statements like "I want to have a good career" are too broad. Instead, specify what "good career" means to you.
- Overloading with Details: The introduction should set the scene, not provide exhaustive background?save details for the main body.
- Lack of Focus: Avoid diverging into unrelated topics or personal philosophies unrelated to career goals.
- Generic Openings: Avoid clichés or generic statements that fail to distinguish your story.

Examples of Effective Career Essay Introductions

Example 1: Personal Anecdote Approach

"From the moment I helped my grandfather fix his broken bicycle at age ten, I discovered a passion for problem-solving and mechanics. This early experience ignited a lifelong interest in engineering, ultimately guiding me toward my goal of becoming a mechanical engineer dedicated to innovative design solutions."

Analysis: This introduction uses a personal story to establish motivation, clearly states the career goal, and sets an engaging tone.

Example 2: Fact-Based Opening

"With over 3.5 billion people relying on digital platforms daily, the field of digital marketing stands at the forefront of global communication. Inspired by this dynamic environment, I am committed to developing innovative strategies that connect brands with their audiences."

Analysis: It captures interest with relevant statistics, provides context, and states the writer's focus.

Conclusion: Crafting a Strong Introduction to Set the Stage for Success

An introduction in a career essay is more than an opening—it is a strategic tool that lays the groundwork for a compelling narrative. By thoughtfully establishing context, capturing interest, and clearly articulating purpose, writers can effectively engage their audience and provide a strong foundation for the story they wish to tell. A well-crafted introduction not only reflects the writer's personality, motivations, and aspirations but also demonstrates their ability to communicate clearly and persuasively. As such, investing time and effort into this initial section can significantly enhance the overall impact of the essay, inspiring readers to understand and support the writer's career journey.

In summary, the introduction to a career essay is a critical component that combines storytelling, clarity, and purpose. Its strategic construction involves engaging hooks, contextual background, and a precise thesis statement. When executed effectively, it sets a compelling narrative that invites readers into the writer's world, paving the way for an insightful exploration of career ambitions, experiences, and future goals.

Question What is the purpose of an introduction in a career essay? The introduction sets the stage for the essay by presenting the career topic, capturing the reader's interest, and providing a thesis statement that outlines the main focus of the essay. **Answer** How do I make my introduction engaging in a career essay? You can start with a compelling anecdote, a surprising fact, or a relevant quote to grab the reader's attention and make them interested in your career topic. What key elements should be included in the introduction of a career essay? The introduction should include a hook to attract interest, background information on the career, and a clear thesis statement outlining your main point or purpose. How long should the introduction be in a career essay? Typically, the introduction should be concise, roughly 10-15% of the total essay length, providing enough context without overwhelming the reader. What examples can I use in my introduction to make it relevant? You can include recent industry trends, personal motivation for choosing the career, or notable achievements related to the field to make the introduction relevant and engaging. Should I mention my personal goals in the introduction of a career essay? Yes, including your personal goals can provide a clear direction for the essay and help the reader understand your motivation and aspirations within the career. How can I effectively connect the introduction to the main body of my career essay? End the introduction with a thesis statement or a guiding question that the body of the essay will address, creating a seamless transition. What common mistakes should I avoid in writing an introduction to a career essay? Avoid vague statements, excessive background information, or a lack of a clear thesis. Also, steer clear of clichés and ensure the introduction is focused and relevant. How can I tailor my career essay introduction for different audiences? Adjust your language, level of detail, and focus based on whether your

audience is academic, professional, or general readers to make your introduction more impactful.

Related keywords: career overview, professional goals, career path, personal motivation, skill development, industry insights, educational background, career challenges, future aspirations, relevant experiences

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